(b) Thirty-two.

(c) Ever since commencement in 1983 of. twenty-five per cent reservation for direct recruitment, only two qualified in the Competitive Examination and were appointed as such.

(d) Three. The process of selection for filling up of the vacancies has been started by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

Unfair Trade Practices Adopted by Companies

1048. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAM-RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an abnormal price rise in sector like cement, tyre, soap, toothpaste and medicines due to profiteering and unfair trade practices by companies; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI* H. R. BHARDWAJ); (a) and (b) As per the index number of wholesale prices furnished by the Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Industry, the wholesale prices of cement, tyres, soaps, toothpaste and drugs and medicines have increased during the period June, 1991 to June, 1992. The MRTP Commission is empowered to inquire into cases involving Monopolistic, Unfair and Restrictive Trade Practices as defined in the MRTP Act, 1969. In this context, the MRTP Commission has recently moved against a cement company for allegedly committing a monopolistic trade practice by increasing prices unreasonably at short intervals. The Commission has also proceeded by way of instituting inquiries against manufacturers of cement, drugs and soaps fo$_r$ resorting to restrictive trade practices either by way of manipulation of prices of their respective products or by re-sale price maintenance or through predatory pricing.

1049. *[Transferred to the 29th July,* 1992.]

Vacant p oste of judges in Bombay High Court

1050. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHAN DRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of High Court judges which are vacant at present in the Bombay High Court including all its benches; and

(b) what are the reasons for these posts remaining vacant and by when these posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) A$_s$ on date there are 10 vacancies of permanent/Additional Judges in the Bombay High Court in its sanctioned strength of 54 permanent/Afiditional Judges. Recommendations received for filling up 5 vacancies have bee$_n$ processed. Recommendations for filling up the remaining vacancies have not been received from the Chief Justice of the High Court and the State authorities in terms of Article 217(1) of the Constitution of India. While all possible efforts are made to fill up the vacancies at the earliest, it is not (possible to indicate by when the vacancies would be filled up.

Plan Outlay for Poverty Alleviation Programmes

1051. SHRI VTTHALRAO MA-DHAVRAO JADHAV:
SHRI SURENDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of PLANNTNG AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the plan outlay for poverty alleviation programmes in the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) what percentage of rural and urban population would be brought above poverty line in Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(c) what would be the share of Agro industries in poverty alleviation programmes; and

(d) what is the target set for Maharashtra State about setting up new industries and poverty alleviation programmes in the Eighth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Central approved outlays in respect of major poverty alleviation programmes in rural and urban areas of the Country for the Eighth Five Year Plan are given below:

(Rs. Crores)

1. *Rural Areas*

(i) Integrated Rural Dsvelopment Programme and allied programmes

(ii) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) .....18400.00 (tentative)

2. *Urban Areas*

Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) 227.00

(b) No targets about percentage of rural and urban population to be brought above poverty line in the 8th plan period have been fixed.

(c) Activity-wise shares in poverty alleviation programmes have not been worked out in advance for the 8th Plan period. Different activities are undertaken from time to time depending upon their viability with reference to local conditions. For this purpose, annual plans are formulated within the States and the Districts.

(d) No target has been fixed for setting up new indusiries *it* Maharashtra State during the Eighth Plan period. Similarly, no State-wise targets under IRDP and allied programmes and JRY have been fixed for the 8th plan period. As regards poverty alleviation programme in urban areas, the targets fixed for Maharashtra State are as under:

(i) No. of beneficiaries to be assisted in setting up micro units . 21700

(ii) No. of persons to be trained for skill upgradation * . 4360

(iii) No. of mandays of work to be generated .... . 13.80 lakhs

(iv) No.. of dwelling units belonging to urban poor/EWS to be ypgraded ..... *. . 23300